

soon evinced such results that no other was thought of or required. This course consisted in the administration of *calomel in large doses*; a scruple or even forty grains being given at the outset, followed up at intervals of half an hour or an hour, with other scruple doses of the same remedy till relief was obtained. From one to four were generally required, though as many as seven have been given, and in one case two hundred and sixty grains were taken before the disease was subdued. Of course, unless the disease was most unequivocally marked, and admitted of no delay, milder means, such as mixture of laudanum and essence of peppermint, thirty drops each in a wineglassful of water, with external applications, were at first resorted to, and would often prove successful; but these failing to arrest the symptoms, no time was lost in giving the grand remedy.

"Your physician's experience with calomel, given as above stated, and before the pulse had ceased at the wrist, inclines him to look upon it almost as a specific for the cure of epidemic cholera. But two cases out of forty-five, to whom it was thus administered, disappointed his hopes; all the rest recovering, though many of them were not severely attacked. Nor did any apparently evil consequences seem to result from the exhibition of these immense doses of calomel, beyond a moderate salivation, and from this even several were exempt." (*Foreign Missionary*, Feb. 1850.)

In conclusion, I will take the liberty of saying that my treatment was the result of the opinion I had formed of the cause of the disease; and this opinion was reached by following out the principle expressed in proposition 4th, quoted at the beginning of this article. It was not a thing of accident, but a conclusion arrived at by philosophical induction.

ART. IX.—*Notice of certain Peculiar Bodies observed in the Human Subject.*
By JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D. [With five wood-cuts.]

IN the winter of 1845, while engaged dissecting a human subject, I observed, deposited in some of the tissues, certain bodies of a character totally different from any others known to me. Since then up to the present time, during the course of every winter, I have noticed the same kind of bodies in several white, more or less emaciated subjects, in the dissecting-room of the University of Pennsylvania. They are of a yellow-cream colour, very irregular in form, and vary in size from half a line up to one-fourth of an inch. The tissues in which they are found are the papillary layer of the dermis, the areolar tissue, and the voluntary muscles.

In the papillary layer of the dermis, the course of deposit of the matter composing the bodies is in some measure determined by the lines of the papillæ tactus, as is indicated in Figure 1, which represents one of these bodies deposited in a portion of the papillary layer of the dermis from the palm of the hand. Wherever the deposit exists, the papillæ tactus are obliterated.

In the areolar tissue, beneath the skin, or between the muscles, the bodies have no definite form or course, as seen in Figure 2.

In the muscles, the direction of the bodies is to some degree determined by the course of the fibres, as is observed in Figures 3, 4, and 5; and where they exist the muscular substance is obliterated.

When first noticed, I thought these bodies might be deposits or degenerations of the normal tissue into fat, or else entozoic cysts; but upon closer examination they proved to be neither.

Upon rupturing one of them—for they appear to be bound by a delicate, liminary film—a thick viscid matter exuded, which, submitted to the microscope, exhibited a seroid fluid containing numerous granules possessing a very great uniformity in size, measuring the 1-14,285th of an inch, in diameter, and endowed with a very active molecular motion, amounting to a vibration equal to nearly four times their own diameter.

The character of these bodies I am unable to solve. Are they connected with some form of disease? and have they been before noticed upon the skin of certain patients?

REFERENCE TO THE FIGURES.

Fig. 1 represents one of the peculiar bodies (*a*) deposited in the papillary layer of the dermis of the palm of the hand, magnified 20 diameters. *b*. *Papillæ tactus*.

Fig. 2. One of the peculiar bodies deposited in the areolar tissue, from beneath the skin of the wrist, magnified 10 diameters.

Fig. 3. Do. from the sartorius muscle, magnified 7 diameters.

Fig. 4. Do. from the biceps flexor cubiti muscle, magnified 9 diameters.

Fig. 5. Outline of do., of a very irregular form, from the extensor carpi radialis longior muscle, magnified 10 diameters.

Fig. 1.

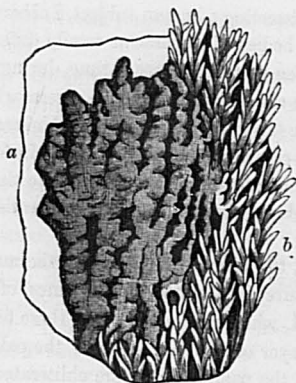


Fig. 2.

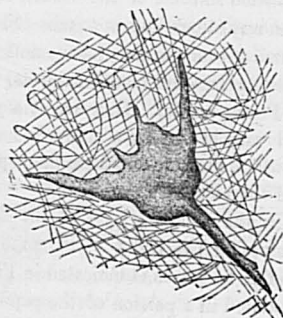


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

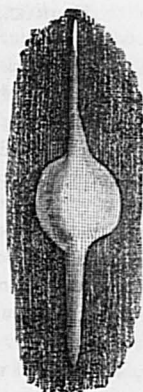


Fig. 5.

